

Docket No. 740737-282

Serial No. 10/694,054

Page 2

REMARKS

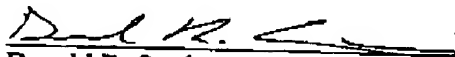
The Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment mailed January 19, 2007 has been received and its contents carefully noted. Applicant respectfully traverses the objections provided in the Notice, and respectfully requests withdrawal of the finding of non-compliance. According to the Notice, the Amendment document filed by Applicant on January 3, 2007 is considered to be non-compliant under 37 C.F.R. 1.121, because the amended paragraph, as shown on page 2 of the Amendment document, does not include markings. However, the amended paragraph does in fact include the appropriate markings. In particular, the first occurrence of the word "first" in the first sentence, i.e. the 18th word in the first sentence, clearly has a strikethrough marking. Reproduced in its entirety with markings, the sentence in the Amended document reads:

The gas flow control mechanism 50, arranged movably in the movable member 10, is provided with a ~~first~~ gas passage forming portion 55 forming a first gas passage 51, a second gas passage 52 and a connection passage 53 for connecting the first gas passage 51 and the second gas passage 52.

As such, the Amendment document as initially filed is fully compliant with 37 C.F.R. 1.121. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection of record be reconsidered and withdrawn by the Examiner.

Should the Examiner believe a conference would be of benefit in expediting the prosecution of the instant application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone counsel to arrange such a conference.

Respectfully submitted,



Donald R. Studebaker

Reg. No. 32,815

Nixon Peabody LLP
401 9th Street N.W.
Suite 900
Washington, D. C. 20004
(202) 585-8000